

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 21, 2016

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **Vote for Rena Leddy in DLANC Election! It is a contested race.**

Rena Leddy, LA Fashion District BID Managing Director, is running for the Downtown Neighborhood Council's business seat, representing the BID. There is one other person running against her. This year, the elections are being held online and in person. In order to vote online, you must first register to do so.

**Register NOW** and **BEFORE** April 28 at [www.empowerla.org/vrp](http://www.empowerla.org/vrp).

- You will need to upload a form of ID and some form of proof that you work, live, and/or own a business in the neighborhood.
- Elections run online between April 14 and May 5, 2016.

#### **California Downtown Association Succeeds in Stopping SB 876**

The California Downtown Association worked with BIDs, and downtown organizations around the state, including the Fashion District, to put a stop to the proposed legislation SB 876, Homelessness. This bill would have been another version of the "Right to Rest Act" that we've defeated two other times in the last three years. The Senator who proposed the bill is termed out at the end of 2016. This bill proposed preserving the homeless' right to live and eat on the streets and sidewalks of our cities. The bill did not offer any practical solutions towards addressing homelessness. Instead it would have prohibited cities, counties and municipal agencies that receive state funds from regulating resting in public spaces. The bill would also have dramatically hindered a local municipality's ability to maintain parks, sidewalks and other public spaces in a safe and clean manner.

#### **City Council Sets New Limits on the Belongings of Homeless**

This week City Council revised the law known as Ordinance 56.11 to allow people to have only as much stuff as they can fit into a 60 gallon container. City Councilman, Joe Buscaino said the measure balanced the City's need for safe and clean streets with homeless people's personal property rights. Under the revised law, the homeless can be cited or arrested for a misdemeanor if they fail to clear the sidewalks or fail to take down their tents/encampments between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The City will cite a homeless person if they have excessive personal property after providing 24 hours' notice. The City will store the items for 90 days, during which time the owners can claim the items. With no warning, the City can seize and impound a tent that is not taken down during the 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. time frame. They will be allowed to erect tents after 9:00 p.m. They can leave their tents up if the weather drops below 50 degrees. Bulky or contaminated items can be seized and discarded without warning. This revised ordinance is in response to the many encampments that have crept up all over the city, not just downtown. There has been a 20% increase in homelessness in the last two years in Los Angeles.